

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

- A) In claim 14: on line 10: changed "the first gear wheel" to --a first gear wheel--;
- B) In claim 17: on line 1, changed "(Withdrawn)" to --(original)--, and
- C) In claim ¹⁸17: on line 1, changed "(Withdrawn)" to --(original)--.

NPB
6-19-06

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 1-14, 17-18 and 20-25 are allowed.
10. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - a) The device as claimed in claim 1 is patentable with respect to the prior art, in particular, the U.S. Patent Nos. 4,482,221 and 5,213,293 by the limitations related to the structure of the microscope stand for supporting the operating element in a microscope having a focusing device and an adjusting stop mechanism for limiting the movement of the microscope stage. It is noted that a microscope having a focusing device and an adjusting stop mechanism is disclosed in the art as can be seen in the Patent 4,482,221 (see columns 2-5 and figures 1-4) and the use of a curved slot for allowing a movement of a bar in both horizontal and vertical directions is disclosed in the Patent No. 5,213,293 (see column 4 and figs. 5); however, the prior art does not discloses a microscope having a focusing device and an adjustable stop mechanism for limiting the movement of a microscope stage wherein the stand comprises an elongated slot provided at each side of the stand which allows a change of the position of the